

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1173

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0289

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

DEPT PLEASE PASS OAU COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OAU XJ

SUBJ: OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE SESSIONS COMMENCE: SUPPORT OF  
FRONTLINE DECISION TO BACK PATRIOTIC FRONT LIKELY

REF: (A) LUSAKA 0272; (B) LUSAKA 0260; (C) OSLO 0472 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: SPEAKERS AT THE JAN 29 INAUGURATION OF THE 28TH SESSION  
OF THE LIBERATION COMMITTEE, INCLUDING ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KAUNDA,  
CALLED UPON THE LIBERATION COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THE PATRIOTIC  
FRONT AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ZIMBABWE NATIONALISTS. KAUNDA  
IN A TEMPERED ADDRESS JUSTIFIED BACKING THE FRONT AS THE ONLY  
WAY TO ENSURE NATIONAL UNITY AND AN EFFECTIVE ARMED STRUGGLE.  
HE DENIED THAT RECOGNITION WAS DESIGNED TO CHOOSE THE LEADERS  
OF AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE. OAU SECRETARY-GENERAL AND MOZAMBICAN  
FONMIN APPEALED FOR THE RECOGNITION OF THE FRONT AND PRAISED  
THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES FOR THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE LIBERATION  
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STRUGGLE. MUZOREWA ANC DELEGATION TOOK ITS PLACE AT MEETINGS  
AND INTENDS TO REMAIN UNTIL ASKED TO LEAVE. SENTIMENT AMONG  
PARTICIPANTS IS THAT LIBERATION COMMITTEE WILL DECIDE TO  
SUPPORT THE FRONTLINE DECISION TO BACK THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.  
END SUMMARY.

1. THE 28TH SESSION OF THE OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE WAS

INAUGURATED BY PRES KAUNDA LATE SATURDAY AFTERNOON JAN 28. IN A STRONG BUT MEASURED SPEECH (REFTEL A) KAUNDA CALLED FOR SUPPORT OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, SWAPO AND ALL OTHER TRULY NATIONALIST AFRICAN MOVEMENTS. PLUMPING FOR AN OAU ENDORSEMENT OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, KAUNDA SAID IT WAS THE ONLY ORGANIZATION ACTIVELY PURSUING THE ARMED STRUGGLE. HE CITED THE DANGER OF BACKING MULTIPLE ZIMBABWEAN ARMED FORCES AND SAID AFRICA'S DUTY IS TO HELP GIVE ZIMBABWE ONE NATIONAL ARMY. "SUPPORT FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IS THE ROAD TO UNITY." KAUNDA DENIED THAT SUPPORT FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE SELECTION OF THE FUTURE LEADERS OF ZIMBABWE. THIS QUESTION COULD BE LEFT TO AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE.

2. OTHER SPEAKERS AT THE INAUGURATION WERE MOSES GAROEB OF SWAPO, WILLIAM ETEKI, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE OAU AND MOZAMBICAN FONMIN CHISSANO, OUTGOING CHAIRMAN OF THE LIBERATION COMMITTEE. GAROEB, ETEKI AND CHISSANO ALL SPOKE IN FAVOR OF COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT OF THE FRONTLINE DECISION TO SUPPORT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. ETEKI ALLUDED TO HIS EARLIER SUGGESTION OF A PAN AFRICAN FORCE HE PLANS TO PRESENT TO THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE (REFTEL B) AND NOTED THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES TO THE ZIMBABWE LIBERATION STRUGGLE. CHISSANO CITED THE WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES TO THE ZIMBABWE STRUGGLE THAT WAS EVIDENT TO HIM ON HIS RECENT TOUR OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. HE TOLD BRITAIN THE ONLY REALISTIC WAY IT COULD PROVE IT WANTS ZIMBABWEAN INDEPENDENCE IS BY SUPPORTING THOSE (I.E., THE PATRIOTIC FRONT) EFFECTIVELY WORKING TOWARDS IT.

3. ALL LIBERATION GROUPS WERE REPRESENTED AT THE INAUGURATION  
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INCLUDING A MUZOREWA ANC DELEGATION WITH GEORGE NYANDORO AND JAMES CHIKEREMA'S SON. MUZOREWA'S SUPPORTERS LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THEY INTENDED TO PARTICIPATE AND REPRESENT THEIR GROUP UNLESS OR UNTIL THEY WERE PREVENTED FROM DOING SO BY SOME COMMITTEE ACTION. THEIR POSITION WAS SOMEWHAT STRENGTHENED BY MUZOREWA'S STATEMENTS IN NORWAY AND LONDON OVER THE WEEKEND REJECTING NEGOTIATIONS WITH SMITH (REFTEL C).

4. GRZ FONMIN MWALE, ELECTED MEETING CHAIRMAN, PRESIDED OVER THE CLOSED SESSION HELD SUNDAY JAN 30. IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT MWALE SAID THE FUTURE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA WOULD BE DECIDED ON THE BATTLEFIELD AND CALLED FOR INDEPENDENT AFRICA TO INCREASE MATERIAL SUPPORT TO THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

5. COMMENT: THE BISHOP'S STATEMENT, PLUS THE APPEARANCE OF AN ANC DELEGATION AT THE LIBERATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS (PARA 3) INDICATES THAT MUZOREWA DOES NOT INTEND TO ABANDON THE GROUND TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WITHOUT A FIGHT. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT SOME DELEGATIONS, WITH LIBERIA AND ZAIRE PROMINENT AMONG THESE,

ARE RESISTING ENDORSEMENT OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT BY THE LIB-  
ERATION COMMITTEE. THESE ARGUE THAT A DECISION OF THIS MAGNITUDE  
SHOULD BE BUCKED TO AN OAU SUMMIT FOR RESOLUTION. DESPITE THIS  
OPPOSITION, WITH THE PRESTIGE OF THE FRONTLINE LEADERS,  
ESPECIALLY KAUNDA'S, SO MUCH ON THE LINE, THE PREVAILING  
OPINION AMONG DELEGATES IS THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL RATIFY THE  
FRONTLINE DECISION TO SUPPORT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. LOW

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDEES

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